



## STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
EUGENE I. GESSOW, DIRECTOR

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# Vermeer Named Medicaid Director

**DES MOINES, Iowa**—Department of Human Services Director Gene Gessow on Friday named Jennifer Vermeer to succeed him as director of the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, which administers Iowa's Medicaid program.

Vermeer, 37, has been assistant IME director since July 2005 and assumes her new duties immediately. Gessow was Medicaid director from 2003 until he was appointed DHS director Thursday (Sept. 18).

"Jennifer is a quick study who knows the system, knows how to advocate for people in need, and knows how to squeeze a dollar," Gessow said. "I especially appreciate the legislative insight that she has brought to our management."

Prior to her current position, Vermeer was a senior analyst for the non-partisan Legislative Services Agency for two and a half years, specializing in Medicaid and other DHS programs.

Vermeer earned her masters degree in public administration at the University of Arizona and worked seven years at the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in the Arizona Legislature, the last three as deputy director, before taking the Iowa position in December 2002.

Medicaid is a joint state-federal program that provides health insurance to Iowa's most vulnerable people, including children in low-income families, frail elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and parents with very low incomes.

Medicaid is by far the largest DHS program, with a current fiscal year budget of about \$712 million in state funds. State dollars are matched approximately 2:1 by federal funds.

About 330,000 people receive Medicaid services at any one time, and over the course of a year about 16 percent of Iowa's population is served by the program.

More than half of Medicaid members are children, 54 percent, but they account for only about 17 percent of expenditures. About 21 percent of Medicaid members have disabilities. They account for 52 percent of the Medicaid budget.

Medicaid is administered by the IME, which is composed of nine performance-based contractors overseen by Vermeer and other state managers.

Vermeer's salary will be \$112,000.

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